(c) what is the annual production and demand of the DAP in the country during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the annual supply of DAP in the country during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Due to change in the pattern of manufacturing of DAP in the country, Department of Fertilizers entrusted a cost price study of DAP & MOP to Tariff Commission in 2001. The Tariff Commission has submitted its report to Government in February, 2003. Based on the recommendations of Tariff Commission Government has implemented the revised methodology of working out concession rates on indigenous DAP *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003. In the revised methodology of based on the usage of phosphoric acid manufacturers of DAP have been divided into two groups. The manufacturers using indigenously produced phosphoric acid have been placed in Group I. The other manufacturers using imported phosphoric acid have been placed in Group II. This revised policy provides fair normative price to the manufacturers and encourage competition among them within the Group.

(c) and (d) The production, import and consumption of DAP during the last five years are as under:—

(In lakh MT)

Year	Production	Import	Total supply	Consumption
1999-2000	38.63	32.68	71.31	69.37
2000-2001	48.89	8.60	57.49	58.84
2001-2002	50.94	9.33	60.27	61.81
2002-2003	52.41	3.70	56.11	54.73
2003-2004	47.32	7.34	54.66	56.24

Bringing patented medicines under price control

†206. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring the patented medicines under the purview of price control to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

keep a check on the profits of the companies so that such medicines could reach the general public of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO' 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves, however, the Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. This power of Government applies to Patented medicines as well.

Uniform MRP system for medicines

207. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has formulated a proposal to introduce a uniform MRP system for medicines sold in retail;

(b) if so, how the Ministry is coordinating with the States to have a uniform sales tax/MRP on medicines;

(c) whether any meeting of the Health Ministers of States has been convened before taking a final view on the subject; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO' 95), prices of both Scheduled and non-Scheduled formulations are printed as "retail price not to exceed.....local taxes extra". Representations have been received from time to time that the provisions of the DPCO '95 should be amended for printing the retail prices of all medicines inclusive of all taxes. Various options are being considered for solving the problem, however, due to difference in types and rates of local taxes of States/local authorities, no proper solution has been found so far. A meeting of Finance Ministers and Health Ministers